Paul McCartney's Historic Citi Field Opening Show

GOOD EVENING NEW YORK CITY

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When The Beatles played Shea Stadium on August 15, 1965, it was the first rock concert in a major stadium, with a sold-out crowd of 55,600. (Among them was a pretty young photographer named Linda Eastman.) Beatlemania was at its height, and the band rolled into the stadium in an armored truck, then banged out 12 adrenaline-fueled songs in 30 minutes. The band was virtually inaudible above the deafening screams; John Lennon eventually gave up and, during "I'm Down," mischievously began playing the electric keyboard with his elbow.

The Beatles at Shea pioneered the stadium concert business, not to mention mega-festivals like Woodstock, but more importantly, that concert established rock music as the preeminent popular art form of the 20th century, and The Beatles as its reigning royalty.

So when Paul McCartney headlined at Shea Stadium, now renamed Citi Field and moved a few hundred yards away, for the first time since those historic shows, it was even more of an event than a Paul McCartney concert usually is. It was also his first tour in four years, and The Beatles were in the air once again, thanks to the hoopla over the reissue of their catalogue, concurrent with the release of The Beatles edition of Rock Band. Over the three nights at Citi Field, 109,397 people saw and heard music that has stood the test of time and will be remembered for a long time to come — in other words, classic. How often do you get to see something like that?

This time, McCartney wielded a mammoth sound system and video screens several storeys high. This time it would be a sing-along, not a scream-at.

'When The Beatles played Shea Stadium on August 15, 1965, it was the first rock concert in a major stadium'

A6
A5
B5
B3
A3

Continued...

GOOD EVENING NEW YORK CITY

‘Great songs lay down markers not just in the passage of historical or musical time, but in our personal time.’

The concerts documented in Good Evening New York City were about looking back and looking forward. McCartney has long included Beatles songs in his set, but 2007’s Memory Almost Full found him reconsidering his own legacy, and now The Beatles show up in anecdotes and visuals too. He can do that because he has outstanding recent work to represent his ongoing artistic and personal evolution — new songs like “Only Mama Knows,” and “Dance Tonight,” from Memory Almost Full, and “Sing the Changes” and “Highway,” from the Fireman’s 2008 album Electric Arguments, held their own at Citi Field.

McCartney plays his songs nearly as they were recorded, allowing their musical richness and emotional resonances to ring loud and clear. They no longer pack a revolutionary jolt, but they might have something even better. Great songs lay down markers not just in the passage of historical or musical time, but in our personal time, so we can measure how far we’ve come. In that sense their meaning is ever-changing.

Maybe that’s partly why, even after decades of iconic status, this man is still downright ecstatic about making music. And as Good Evening New York City demonstrates, a lot of other people are pretty ecstatic about his music too. A medley of “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band (Reprise)” and “The End” closed the evening, and it all came down to the immortal lines, “And in the end/The love you take/Is equal to the love you make.” Paul McCartney manufactured a lot of love at Citi Field. But then so did the audience. And that’s what it’s all about.

Michael Azerrad
New York, 2009

Loving
TO YOU

ME
POUI

VOX

All songs performed by Paul McCartney, Paul 'Wix' Wickens, Rusty Anderson, Abe Laboriel Jr, Brian Ray. Piano and additional vocals on I Saw Her Standing There: Billy Joel

Drive My Car, Got To Get You Into My Life, The Long And Winding Road, Blackbird, Eleanor Rigby, Back In The USSR, I'm Down, I've Got A Feeling, Paperback Writer, A Day In The Life, Let It Be, Hey Jude, Day Tripper, Lady Madonna, I Saw Her Standing There, Yesterday, Helter Skelter, Get Back, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, The End written by Lennon/McCartney and published by Sony/ATV Music Publishing

Jet, Let Me Roll It, My Love, Mrs Vandebilt, Band On The Run written by Paul & Linda McCartney and published by MPL Communications Ltd/Inc

Only Mama Knows, Flaming Pie, Highway, Here Today, Dance Tonight, Calico Skies, Sing The Changes written by Paul McCartney and published by MPL Communications Ltd/Inc

Something written by George Harrison and published by Harrisongs Ltd

Give Peace A Chance written by John Lennon and published by Sony/ATV Music Publishing

Live And Let Die written by Paul & Linda McCartney and published by MPL Communications Ltd/Inc/EMI United Partnership Ltd

Let Me Roll It features an excerpt from Foxey Lady written by Jimi Hendrix and published by Experience Hendrix LLC

Executive Producer: Paul McCartney

Recorded and filmed over three nights at Citi Field stadium, New York

Audio Mixed by Geoff Emerick, Adam Noble and Paul Hicks
Additional Engineering by Jonas Westling and Richard Lancaster
Assisted by Liam Nolan
Recorded by John Harris
Audio Mastered by Tim Young at Metropolis
Mastered for iTunes by Alex Wharton at Abbey Road Studios

Project Management: Scott Rodger
MPL Production Team: Ruth Ward, Lisa Power, Susanne Buckner

Art Direction: Julian House at Intro

Photography: Bill Bernstein, Brantley Gutierrez, Lloyd Bishop
Archive photography: Linda McCartney
Stills from the film The Beatles at Shea Stadium, 1965 courtesy of Apple Corps Ltd

Thanks to Wix, Rusty, Brian, Abe, Billy Joel, Alec Baldwin, John Eastman, Lee Eastman, John Hammel, Keith Smith, Steve Martin, Stuart Bell, Hanalei Perez-Lopez, Louise Morris, Eddie Klein, Jamie Kirkham, Nancy Jeffries, Roger Huggett, Ant Cauchi, Nick Weymouth, all at MPL Ltd and Inc and our friends, lovers and families without whom…

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Drive My Car (02:25)

Jet (04:19)

Only Mama Knows (03:40)

Flaming Pie (02:28)

Got To Get You Into My Life (02:51)

Let Me Roll It (05:51)

Highway (03:54)

The Long And Winding Road (03:41)

My Love (03:53)

Blackbird (02:42)

Here Today (02:31)

Dance Tonight (03:02)

Calico Skies (02:39)

Mrs Vandebilt (04:40)

Eleanor Rigby (02:25)

Sing The Changes (04:16)

Band On The Run (05:16)

Back In The USSR (03:07)

I'm Down (02:22)

Something (04:07)

I've Got A Feeling (05:50)

Paperback Writer (03:28)

A Day In The Life Give Peace A Chance (05:44)

Let It Be (03:54)

Live And Let Die (03:13)

Hey Jude (07:23)

Day Tripper (03:11)

Lady Madonna (02:33)

I Saw Her Standing There (03:08)

Yesterday (02:17)

Helter Skelter (03:52)

Get Back (04:00)

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band / The End (04:27)

Total running time: 2:03:09